prepare them to become capable of securing employment in different sectors of the economy.

(d) (i) Govt. of India has been implementing a Scheme of Modernisation of Madrasa Education since 1993 through the Deptt. of Education. Funds of Rs. 167.00 lakhs has been spent on the Scheme by Deptt. of Education, Ministry of HRD. The objective of the Scheme is to encourage educational institutions like Madrasas and Maktabs to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum for which financial assistance is provided by Govt. of India.

(ii) Multi-Sectoral Plans are being prepared for 41 districts which have 20% or more of its population consisting of minority communities to provide forward and backward linkages to craftsman engaged in conspicuous trades or crafts in such districts.

(iii) Efforts are being made to provide technical skills through Industrial Training Institutes and Polytechnics in minority concentration districts top people belonging to minority communities so as to improve their productivity and efficiency. This would enhance their earning level and bring economic betterment.

(iv) National Minority Development Finance Corporation has been set up on 30.9.94 to provide loans and assistance to people belonging to minority communities at concessional rates of interest. With the help of these loans people belonging to minority communities would be able to generate self-employment opportunities for their economic betterment. This Corporation has been provided with an equity share capital of Rs. 125.00 crores by Govt. of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan

(v) To ensure that candidates belonging to Minority Communities become capable of competing in equal terms with other candidates in Competitive examinations held by varic s Public Service Commissions Banks, Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings a Pre-examination Coaching Scheme is being implemented for weaker sections based on economic criteria for other Backward Classes including Minorities by Ministry of Welfare. Under this Scheme a provision of Rs. 2.00 crores has been made for 1996-97. This is expected to provide proportionate representation in various employment opportunities.

(vi) The National Commission for Minorities has been set up as a statutory body under an Act of Parliament for effective implementation of safeguards for protection of interests of Minorities.

Various Welfare Schemes for Tribal Women and Children

266. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes launched by Government during the

current financial year for the welfare of tribal women and children; and

(b) the details of targets and achievements in case of each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Old Age Pension Scheme in Maharashtra

267. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) number of destitutes and aged persons presently covered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme in Maharashtra and particularly in Nagpur with details thereof;

(b) number of old women who have been covered under the scheme in Nagpur at present;

(c) whether all the eligible old women in Nagpur are getting old age pension; and

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take to cover all the old women in Nagpur under Old Age Pension Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The number of destitutes and aged persons presently covered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) in Maharashtra and particularly in Nagpur is as under:

Scheme	State as a whole	Particularly in Nagpur
NOAPS	12607	140

(b) The State Govt. has not indicated the number of women beneficiaries separately.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Identifying eligible old persons including women is an on-going process. The State government as well as the district administration has been asked to make all out efforts to identify all eligible persons to enable them to receive these benefits. The State Government as well as the districts have been given funds for publicity so as to make more people aware of the scheme.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.00 Noon

The Deputy Chairman *in the Chair*

Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the MSTC Ltd. Calcutta and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Madam I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the MSTC Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the dealy in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1393/97]

I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Welfare.